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AD HOC COMMITTEE ON THE INDIAN OCEAN

DRAFT REPORT

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. By its resolution 47/59 of 9 December 1992, the General Assembly, after taking note of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean, 1/ requested the Ad Hoc Committee to consider new alternative approaches leading to the achievement of the goals contained in the Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace and as considered at the Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean held in July 1979, taking into account the changing international situation. It also requested the Ad Hoc Committee to address the complex ramifications of the issues involved and differing perceptions on these issues as well as the future role of the Ad Hoc Committee and to make recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. The Assembly decided to convene, as early as possible thereafter, the United Nations Conference on the Indian Ocean at Colombo with the participation of the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean, and called upon the permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users of the Indian Ocean to participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee. The General Assembly requested the Ad Hoc Committee to hold a session during 1993, with a duration of not more than 10 working days, and to submit to the Assembly at its forty-eighth session a comprehensive report on the implementation of the resolution.

2. Pursuant to resolution 47/59, the Ad Hoc Committee held its session from 21 June to 2 July 1993 (see A/AC.159/SR.422-4__) at United Nations Headquarters in New York. The Committee held ___ formal meetings, as well as ___ informal meetings during 1993.

3. At its 423rd meeting, on 21 June 1993, the Ad Hoc Committee decided to admit Nepal, upon its request, to participate as observer in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee at its 1993 session.

4. The Ad Hoc Committee is composed of the following States:

(a) 44 members:

Australia
Bangladesh
Bulgaria
Canada
China
Djibouti
Egypt
Ethiopia
Germany
Greece
India
Indonesia
Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Iraq
Italy
Japan
Kenya
Liberia
Madagascar
Malaysia
Maldives
Mauritius
Mozambique
Netherlands
Norway
Oman
Pakistan
Panama
Poland
Romania
Russian Federation
Seychelles
Singapore
Somalia

B. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59

7. During _____ formal meetings, from 21 June to 2 July (422nd to 4__ meetings), and in _____ informal meetings, the Ad Hoc Committee considered General Assembly resolution 47/59 and its implementation.

C. Introduction and adoption of the report of the Ad Hoc Committee to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session

8. At its _____ meeting, on _____, the Rapporteur of the Ad Hoc Committee introduced the draft report of the Committee (A/AC.159/L.119).

9. At its _____ and _____ meetings, on 2 June, the Ad Hoc Committee considered and adopted the draft report to the General Assembly (A/AC.159/L.119) as orally amended.

III. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Ad Hoc Committee conducted an extensive discussion and exchanged views in terms of General Assembly resolution 47/59. Preliminary consideration was given to a number of new alternative approaches to the question of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace. A summary of the Committee's deliberations prepared by the Chairman is contained in the annex to the present report, without prejudice to the position of any delegation.

11. The Ad Hoc Committee reaffirmed the commitment to the realization of the goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region leading to the creation of a zone of peace.

12. It was noted that great-Power rivalry has been replaced by a new and welcome phase of confidence, trust and cooperation, and that the improved international political environment following the end of the cold war had created favourable opportunities to renew comprehensive multilateral and regional efforts towards the realization of the goals of peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region.

13. There was general recognition that both global and regional efforts should be pursued in a complementary way bearing in mind that the States of the region could provide their own constructive contribution to strengthen peace, security, stability and cooperation in the Indian Ocean region. In this regard the Ad Hoc Committee underlined the importance of the cooperation and participation, as appropriate, of the permanent members of the Security Council, the major maritime users and other interested States.

14. While recognizing that the elimination of destabilizing foreign military presence remains a desired goal, it was noted that the foreign military presence conceived in the context of great-Power rivalry has diminished considerably. The nature of foreign military presence has changed, and various views were expressed as to the character of and reasons for that change.

Sri Lanka
Sudan
Thailand
Uganda
United Arab Emirates
United Republic of Tanzania
Yemen
Yugoslavia
Zambia
Zimbabwe

(b) Observers: Nepal, Sweden

5. The elected officers of the Ad Hoc Committee were the following:

Chairman: Mr. Stanley Kalpage (Sri Lanka)

Vice-Chairmen: Mr. Matthew Neuhaus (Australia)
Mr. Mohammad Jusuf (Indonesia)
Mr. Pedro Comissario Afonso (Mozambique)

Rapporteur: Mr. Nöel Rakotondramboa (Madagascar)

II. WORK OF THE AD HOC COMMITTEE IN 1993

A. Agenda of the Ad Hoc Committee

6. At its 422nd meeting, the Ad Hoc Committee adopted the following agenda (A/AC.159/L.118):

1. Opening of the session.

2. Election of Vice-Chairpersons.

3. Adoption of the agenda.

4. Implementation of General Assembly resolution 47/59 of 9 December 1992:

   - General discussion;

   - The changing international situation and its impact on the goal of the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace;

   - Issues related to paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution 47/59;

   - New alternative approaches;

   - Future role of the Ad Hoc Committee.

5. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee on the Indian Ocean to the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session.

6. Other matters.

15. The Committee recognized that a step-by-step approach can facilitate incremental progress towards regional and global measures to ensure peace, security, stability and cooperation in the region, leading to a zone of peace in the Indian Ocean region.

16. There was general recognition of the historic significance of the 1971 Declaration of the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace as well as the relevance of some of its elements, and the contribution made by the 1979 Meeting of the Littoral and Hinterland States of the Indian Ocean to the process of advancing the cause of regional and international peace and security. In this context, it was felt that cooperative efforts could now be undertaken on a broader front encompassing both military and non-military aspects of security, bearing in mind the differing perceptions with regard to the region.

17. The Ad Hoc Committee welcomed the renewed participation of some members and emphasized the need for all permanent members of the Security Council and the major maritime users to cooperate with and participate in the work of the Ad Hoc Committee, particularly at a time when the Committee is actively engaged in the task of developing new alternative approaches.

18. The Ad Hoc Committee agreed to continue consideration of new alternative approaches building upon its deliberations at the current session, with a view to reaching early agreement to give new impetus to the process of strengthening cooperation and ensuring peace, security and stability in the Indian Ocean region. In this context, the Ad Hoc Committee recommends that the General Assembly invite views of Member States, including on the new alternative approaches discussed at the current session of the Committee.

Notes

1/ Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 29 (A/47/29).